

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CU-02 SS-15 SSO-00 /028 W

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P 301120Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1507

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FOR NEA/ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON, CU/NEA NEWBERRY,
AND E/POATS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC TS

SUBJECT: REDUCED FY 76 CU ALLOCATION

REF: STATE 16968, 75 STATE 233872

1. SUDDEN DECISION TO CUT CU ALLOCATION (REF A)
PUTS EMBASSY IN EMBARRASSING POSITION, COMING AS
IT DOES ONLY THREE MONTHS AFTER WE ANNOUNCED AT
FULL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING HERE OUR INTENTION
TO DOUBLE CU PROGRAM FOR TUNISIA. AS YOU MAY
RECALL, EMBASSY WENT TO CONSIDERABLE PAINS WITH
DEPARTMENT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE MADE NO PROMISES
WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP. FOR THIS REASON,
WE DID NOT RPT NOT PASS ALONG TO TUNISIANS DEPARTMENT
ASSURANCES THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE JUST A ONE TIME
INFUSION OF FUNDS, ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT AFFIREMD
BY REF B THAT IT "INDEED PREPARED TO MAINTAIN THIS
LEVEL IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY
OF FUNDS AND ON EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS THIS
YEAR'S EXPANDED PROGRAM." WHAT WE DID DO, HOWEVER,
WAS COMMIT OURSELVES AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING TO
A DOUBLING OF FUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR. IN THIS CASE,
INSOFAR AS WE ARE AWARE, THERE WAS NO CAVEAT RE
"SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS."

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2. BASED UPON REVISED PROGRAM (REF B), EMBASSY HAS

ALREADY SUBMITTED EIGHT ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS
OF IV GRANTS TOMOFA FOR GOT APPROVAL. FURTHER,
PROGRAM OF POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH GRANTS (PARA 7,
REF B) HAS ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED AMONG TUNISIA
SCHOLARS AND PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO BFS.
RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM IS NOT EVEN MENTIONED IN
PARA 3, REF A. REDUCTION OF CANCELLATION OF THESE
PROJECTS AT THIS STAGE WOULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING
TO EMBASSY, DAMAGING TO OUR CREDIBIITY WITH GOT
AND INTELLECTURAL CIRCLES, AND WOULD BRING INTO
QUESTION OUR SERIOUSNESS ABOUT USING THE JOINT
COMMISSION AS A VEHICLE FOR GREATER US COOPERATION
WITH TUNISIA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ONLY
ADDITIONAL US ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA THAT WE WERE
ABOUTTO ANNOUNCE AT JOINT COMMISSION MEETING WAS
INCREASE IN CU PROGRAM.

3. FOR FOREGOING REASONS RQUEST DEPARTMENT RESTORE
FY 76 CU ALLOCATION FOR TUNISIA TO LEVEL AGREED UPON
BEFORE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING.

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